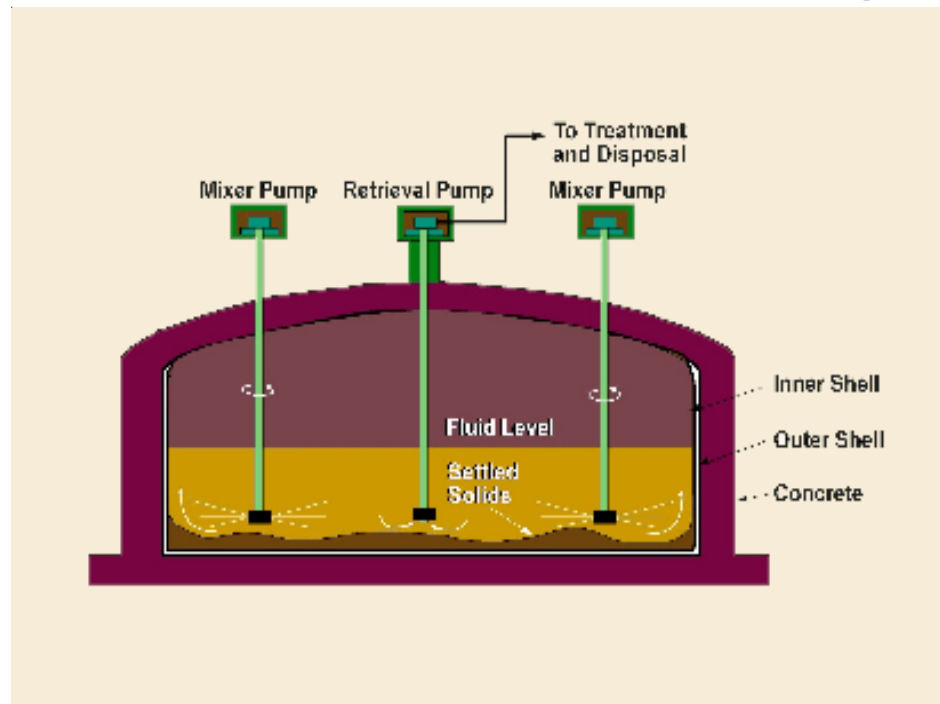




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## Protecting Groundwater



A double-shell tank with two installed mixer pumps will be used to prepare the radioactive and hazardous waste for transfer to other staging and storage tanks and the Waste Treatment Plant.

# Tank Waste Storage Project

## Project Mission

Safe storage, management, and retrieval of all tank wastes to support the treatment and disposal of tank wastes. Supports a logical approach to the closure of the tanks and the safe treatment of any remaining materials.

## Terms to Know

- Single-shell tank (SST): waste storage tank built with only one wall
- Double-shell tank (DST): waste storage tank built with two walls
- Vitrification: process by which tank waste is immobilized in glass

The Tank Waste Storage Project regulates how tank waste is treated and stored. The project also ensures that the U.S. Department of Energy maintains the DSTs, prevents harmful releases to the environment, and conducts safe operations. In addition, it governs the closure of SSTs, and governs the retrieval of waste from the SSTs and its transfer to the DSTs.

The project oversees management of highly radioactive waste in 177 underground storage

tanks at the Hanford Site. The tanks range from 50,000 to more than one million gallons in capacity. 149 tanks are SSTs and 28 tanks are DSTs. The SSTs are well beyond their planned life expectancy of 20 years.

67 of the SSTs have been declared known or assumed leakers that have released more than one million gallons of waste to the soil and groundwater. The released waste is now moving toward the Columbia River.

To provide safer storage for tank wastes, 28 DSTs were built. More than three million gallons of liquid waste has been removed from the SSTs and placed into the DSTs. There have been no leaks to the environment from the DSTs.

Eventually, the tank waste will be transferred to the Waste Treatment Plant for immobilization through vitrification.

For additional information: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/nwp>

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